



Testimony submitted to the Education Committee on S.B. 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut

March 3, 2021

Co-Chairs Senator McCrory and Representative Sanchez, Ranking Members Senator Berthel and Representative McCarty, and distinguished members of the Education Committee:

My name is Brittanni and I am from Bridgeport, Connecticut. I'm asking you to **support S.B. 948**, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut.

Right now, our state's education funding system is racist and classist. We spend more on educating affluent white children than low-income children and children of color. Then we spend even more to police, prosecute, and incarcerate those who are failed by our education system. I'm asking you to help make Connecticut a more just and equitable place to live.

I am a school counselor but have always worked in inner-city schools. My brothers attend a school with a majority white population and the resources and education are drastically different. Students in underfunded districts are missing quality education and teachers. State legislators have chosen time and time again to underfund students of color and low-income backgrounds which has led to low reading levels and students who are struggling because they don't have the proper resources and staff. It is very disturbing and upsetting to know that the education gap in Connecticut is \$640 million when we all know that students of color deserve the same education as their white counterparts.

I feel that I'm doing pretty well for myself, but I do believe I could have gone much further if I received a better quality education while attending Bridgeport Public Schools. I also experienced not being prepared for my English courses when I got to college because of the lack of education I got while in Bridgeport Public Schools. I do not want my daughter to attend a school for the same experience; she is currently in a charter school and I plan to move to another city when she hits 4th grade. These reasons are why Education justice is important to me. Students of color deserved the same education and resources as white students.

Please vote "Yes" on S.B. 948 and support its passage in the General Assembly so that our state's budget reflects the values of justice and equity in education.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and leadership on this issue.

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